



**VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2022, AT 6:00 PM**

**FOR THE PROPOSED**

**ROUTE 138 (WASHINGTON STREET) CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECT NO. 607403  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**IN THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 607403**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 138 (Washington Street) Corridor Improvements project in **Stoughton, MA**.

**WHEN: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 138 Corridor Improvements (from its Townline with Canton to Lincoln Street) project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The purpose of this project is to improve traffic safety and operation of Route 138. The project consists of milling and overlay of the existing pavement, limited widening at some locations, adding turning lanes at intersections, new pavement markings, sidewalk reconstruction and new sidewalk, and traffic signal and signage replacement. Pedestrian accommodations consist of 6-foot-wide sidewalks (on both sides of the street, except north of York Street which is on one/west side only). Bicycle accommodations consisting of a 7-foot-wide buffered bike lane on each side of the street are in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 607403**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g., interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices, and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, P.E.  
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER



Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassDOT will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

We recognize that road and bridge construction can create inconveniences for the public. MassDOT places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassDOT encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Acting Chief Engineer

## **WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?**

### **WHY A PUBLIC HEARING?**

To provide an assured method whereby the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can furnish to the public information concerning the State's highway construction proposals, and to afford every interested resident of the area an opportunity to be heard on any proposed project. At the same time, the hearings afford the Commonwealth an additional opportunity to receive information from local sources which would be of value to the State in making its final decisions to what design should be advanced for development.

### **WHY NOT A VOTE ON HIGHWAY PLANS?**

The public hearings are not intended to be a popular referendum for the purpose of determining the nature of a proposed improvement by a majority of those present. They do not relieve the duly constituted officials of a State highway department of the necessity for making decisions in State highway matters for which they are charged with full responsibility.

### **WHAT DOES A PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMPLISH?**

It is designed to ensure the opportunity for, or the availability of, a forum to provide factual information which is pertinent to the determination of the final alternative considered by the state to best serve the public interest, and on which improvement projects are proposed to be undertaken.

It is important that the people of the area express their views in regard to the proposal being presented, so that views can be properly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These minutes will be carefully studied and taken into consideration in the determination of the final design.

## **RIGHT OF WAY CONCERNS**

The State is responsible for securing the Right of Way for this project. If your property, or a portion of it, must be acquired by the State for highway purposes in the interest of all people of the Commonwealth, your rights are fully protected under the law. Briefly, here are some of the answers to questions you might ask.

### **1. WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division. They will explain the impacts and your rights as protected under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79.

### **2. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

Every offer is made to ensure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the acquisition. MassDOT appraisers, independent appraisers, MassDOT "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Appraisal Review Board may all contribute in arriving at an award of damages. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year for fee takings, and interest from the date the property is acquired to the payment date, on all impacts.

### **3. MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?**

No. If, after the figure established as market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right, within three years, to appeal to the courts. Pending a court decision, he or she can be paid on a "pro-tanto" basis (or "for the time being") that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

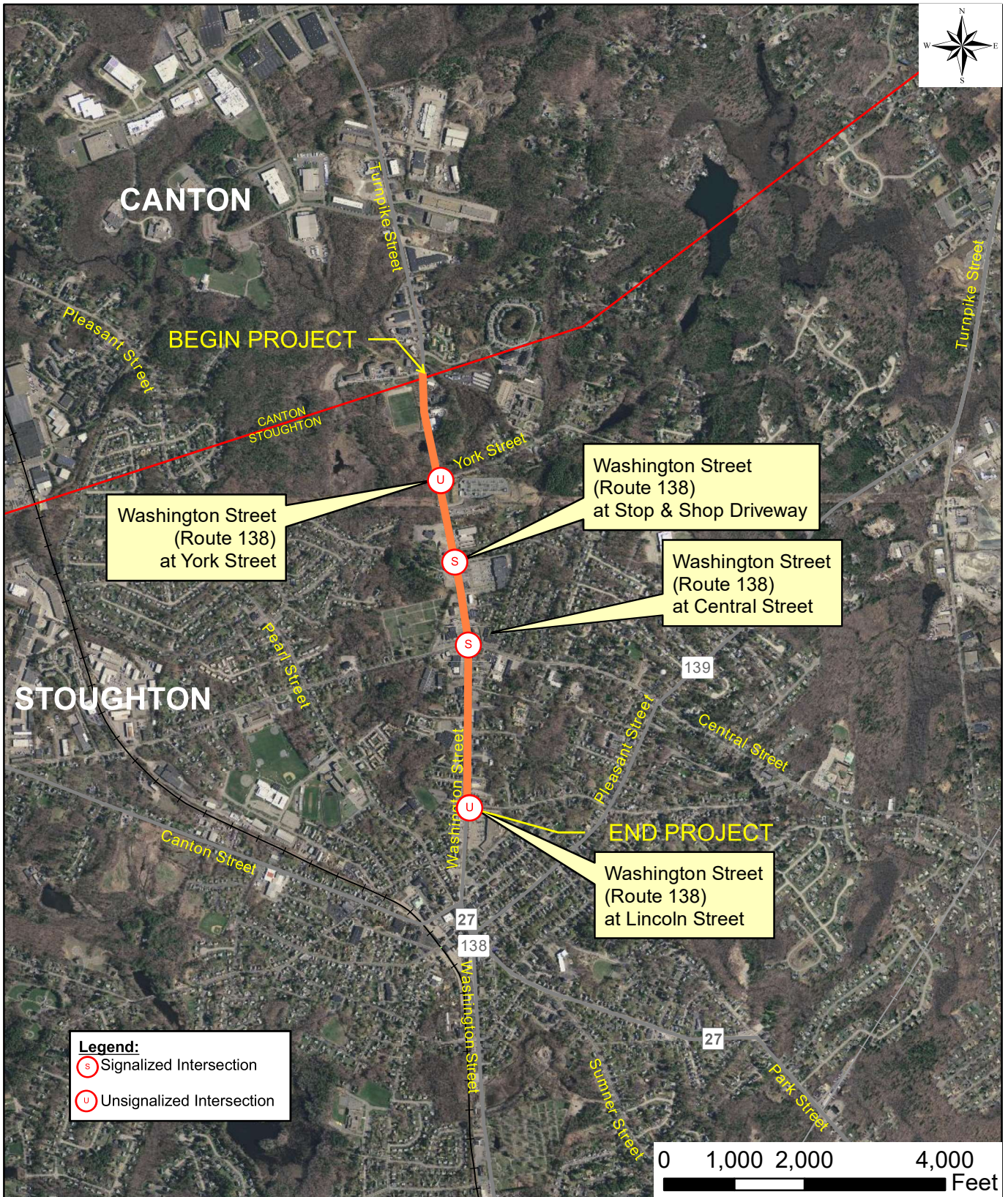
### **4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved, and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house. Otherwise, the structure will be slated for demolition.

### **5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

In addition to the market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.





**Figure 1 - Locus Map**  
 Washington Street (Route 138)  
 Stoughton, MA



## **Project Description**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division (MassDOT) is proposing corridor improvements along Route 138 (Washington Street) in the Town of Stoughton, MA. The project northern limit is the Stoughton Townline with Canton to its southern limit is just south of Lincoln Street.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic operation and safety through addressing the deficiencies of the Route 138, improving pedestrian access, and providing a dedicated bicycle facility along the project limits.

### **Existing Conditions**

Route 138 is functionally classified as ‘Principal Arterial’ within the project limits and under state jurisdiction, encompassing the commercial area of Stoughton. Many of the commercial driveways have large and un-delineated openings. Three high crash clusters are located within the project limits. A road safety audit was conducted in 2018 to evaluate and recommend improvements. Sidewalks are present on sections of Route 138, south of the signalized intersection with Stop and Shop. There are no designated bicycle accommodations along the corridor. The two signals at Stop & Shop and Central Street are old and equipment are outdated. For the section between Central Street and Lincoln Street, the roadway pavement is wide and poorly configured and sidewalk sections are missing on the east side of the roadway. Other deficiencies include poor roadway markings, traffic signal visibility, signage, drainage, utilities, and ADA accessibility.

### **Proposed Improvements**

The project will be complete streets including continuous sidewalks and separated bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway. It reconstruct the existing traffic signals at the intersections of Stop & Shop and Central Street and install a new signal system at the intersection of York Street, which will include smart controls and current technologies. The project scope consists of milling and overlay of existing pavement, limited roadway widening, adding turning lanes, new pavement markings, sidewalk reconstruction, drainage improvements, utility modifications and pole relocations, and traffic signal and signage replacement. Continuous sidewalks will be provided on both sides of the project alignment, except between York Street and Canton Townline where sidewalks will be on one (west) side only. A buffered bike lane will be installed on each side of Route 138, in accordance with applicable MassDOT design guidelines.

### **Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**

We anticipate all streets will remain open during project construction. However, some lane reductions may be required to facilitate the phasing of construction activities. Driveway access for abutting properties will be maintained during construction.

### Project Schedule

The project is currently programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/TIP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23). The Plans are at the 25% (Preliminary) Design Stage at this time. Comments from this evening will be reviewed and considered to extent feasible.

### Project Construction Cost

The project construction costs will be funded with a combination of moneys from the Federal Highway Administration and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is currently estimated at about \$11 million.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION

FEDERAL AID PROJECT

Stoughton, MA  
Route 138 (Washington Street) Corridor Improvements  
Project File No. 607403

This sheet is provided for your comments. Your input is solicited and appreciated. You may e-mail comments directly to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or you may mail this sheet with any additional comments to:

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973  
Attn: Project Management

Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.**

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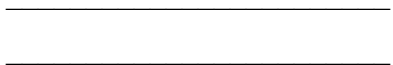
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Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
MassDOT – Highway Division  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Virtual Public Hearing  
ROUTE 138 (WASHINGTON STREET) CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS  
**STOUGHTON**  
Project File No. 607403  
Attn: Project Management

